



# OPERATIONS MEMO

## Update from the California Student Aid Commission

STATE OF  
CALIFORNIA



**June 1, 2017**

**GOM 2017-19**

TO: Financial Aid Administrators  
High School Counselors

FROM: Catalina G. Mistler *Catalina G. Mistler*  
Deputy Director, Program Administration & Services Division

**SUBJECT: 2017-18 California Chafee Foster Youth Grant Program Update**

This Operations Memo from the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) announces updates to the Chafee Foster Youth Grant Program (Chafee Program). The Commission ran the 2017-18 award process on May 25, 2017 which provided 2,866 students with a preliminary award offer.

### **2017-18 Chafee Award Process**

- All Chafee applicants (new and renewal) must submit the 2017-18 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act Application (CADAA).
- New Chafee applicants must:
  - Submit a Chafee Application – The 2017-18 Chafee Application is available on the Commission's website at <https://chafee.csac.ca.gov/>.
  - Have their foster care eligibility confirmed through the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). The paper form is only necessary if CDSS does not provide the Foster Youth Eligibility information electronically.
  - Not have reached 22 years of age by July 1, 2016.
- Awards are given to applicants based on the following priority ranking status:
  1. Paid renewal students under 23 as of July 1, 2017
  2. New and non-paid renewal students who are 22 as of July 1, 2017
  3. New and non-paid renewal students who have dependents
  4. New and non-paid renewal students with unmet need of \$5000 or more
  5. New and non-paid renewal students with unmet need less than \$5000

**AB2506**

- Pursuant to Assembly Bill 2506, commencing with the 2017–18 award year, the Commission shall make a new Chafee grant award to a student only if the student attends either of the following:
  - A qualifying institution that is eligible for participation in the Cal Grant Program.
  - An institution that is not located in California with a three-year cohort default rate that is less than 15.5 percent and a graduation rate greater than 30 percent.
- Students will be notified if their school of attendance is not an eligible institution.

**Chafee Roster Processing**

- Institutions are currently able to view their Chafee roster.
- Beginning July 17, 2017, institutions will be required to certify student eligibility based on the following:
  - Must be enrolled at least half-time
  - Must meet the institution’s Satisfactory Academic Progress policy
  - Must have financial need (excluding student loans or Federal Work-Study)
- Chafee applicants are not subject to the same federal and state financial aid eligibility requirements. Chafee students are not required to:
  - Have a social security number
  - Meet Selective Service requirements
  - Be clear of loan default or grant over-award
  - Have a high school diploma
  - Meet the Ability-to-Benefit requirements
- Beginning August 14, 2017, any student with a preliminary Chafee award that is not certified as eligible will become ineligible and their award status will change from “Preliminary Award Offered” (Awarded on Payment Roster) to “Not Awarded – Ineligible” (Not Awarded on Payment Roster).
- A separate notification will be sent to students to inform them of their ineligible status.

**Applicants with Missing Information**

- Applicants with missing information cannot be processed. To identify applicants who are missing information, utilize the *Chafee Status Roster By School* on WebGrants at “Report Download.”

### **Chafee Workgroup and Webinar**

- The next Chafee Workgroup/Webinar is tentatively scheduled for:

**Wednesday, August 8, 2017 from 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM**

- Additional Workgroup/Webinar information will be sent late July.

Additional information on the Chafee Program is available in the [Chafee Coordinator's Guide](#).

### **Need to contact us?**

- E-mail: [chafee@csac.ca.gov](mailto:chafee@csac.ca.gov)
- Institutional Support phone number: (888) 294-0153

***Working together to effectively promote education beyond high school!***